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THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF SACRED LITERATURE.

The Institute stands for "Systematic Bible Study." Its aim is to promote such study by every possible means. While, therefore, it occupies an independent position—conducting correspondence courses, summer schools and examinations and furnishing lectures on Biblical topics for the general public—it seeks also to work in harmony with all other organizations whose legitimate work includes Bible study. It aims through affiliation, to help on the work of other organizations rather than to set itself up as a rival to them. Its present position in reference to some of these may be noted.

To supplement the work of the *International Committee* inductive studies upon the current Sunday School lessons are furnished in the *Sunday School Times*. Upon these studies is based a regular correspondence course. A fortnightly instruction sheet is furnished to each student, with the help of which a recitation paper is made out and submitted to the criticism of an Institute instructor. A final examination is given at the end of the course, open to all at a nominal fee, whether they have followed the course by correspondence or otherwise.

In the field of the *Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor*, almost every State Secretary in the Union and the Dominion Secretaries in Canada are coöperating with the Institute in making Bible study a special work for the Christian Endeavorers. A special course on the Life of the Christ, based on the four Gospels, has been prepared as a first course for all societies. This may be taken with or without connection with the Institute. Speakers upon the subject of Bible Study are also provided for state and county conventions.

The King's Daughters, through their Central Council, have been placed in connection with the Institute. A special series of simple studies on the Founding of the Christian Church appears in the *Silver Cross*, the organ of that order, and also leads up to an examination at the close.

The Young Woman's Christian Temperance Union has also just completed the same sort of a union, whereby a series of brief studies upon an Old Testament subject appears in the *Oak and Ivy Leaf*, their official organ.

In all these studies the aim is not to present material already worked out so much as to guide the student in working for himself. Few results are given, but many suggestions for obtaining results. The whole work of the Institute gathers about the idea of individual study, and therefore it seeks to guide and direct, rather than to teach facts alone.

Here, then, are these great organizations all wholly or in part recognizing the same end and all working together for it. To an intelligent observer of the field of Bible study the results are already apparent.

The Examination on the Founding of the Christian Church, based on Acts i. to xv., was one of the most satisfactory ever conducted by the Institute. In the number of its candidates it did not exceed the examination of 1892, but there is a notable improvement in the character of the papers. In past years very few have ventured to try the advanced grade of the questions. In the recent examination the advanced grade was only *second* in popularity, the progressive grade leading as heretofore. This argues two things, viz.: increasing confidence in the character of the examination questions and more thorough preparatory study on the part of the candidates,—two most interesting inferences.

Two more examinations are announced. The subjects are: (1) The Founding of the Christian Church (continued), covering Acts from the fifteenth chapter to the close of the book, the Epistles and the Revelation, and (2) the ground covered by the International Lessons of the current six months. The dates are January, 1894, and July, 1893, respectively. Candidates are now enrolling for these examinations and receiving helpful suggestions for preparatory work.

The Institute conducted a Biblical institute, consisting of nine sessions, February 24 to 26, at the University of Chicago. The lecturers were President Harper and Professors Burton, Nordell, Price and Tufts, of the University, and President Burroughs, of Wabash College. The subjects all centered around one theme, the work of Isaiah, except the last evening, when a symposium on "Bible Study, Why and How?" formed the program.

The only summer school as yet definitely arranged for is the one at Chautauqua, July 5 to August 15, in three terms of two weeks each. The instructors will include Professors Harper, McClenahan, Horswell, Burnham and Batten, of former schools, with one new addition, Professor J. S. Riggs, of Auburn Theological Seminary, who will give instruction in English New Testament. Schools, or single courses of lectures, in connection with other Chautauqua assemblies, will be announced soon.